

Poverty Committee Minutes  
Russell County Government Center  
Lebanon, VA

October 17, 2007

**Call to Order**

The Poverty Committee was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairperson Trudy Brisendine.

**Attendees**

Mac Clifton  
Michelle Heath  
Nettie Simon-Owens  
Maggi Luca  
Trudy Brisendine  
Peppy Linden  
Ed Canter  
Barbara Gregory  
Mary Borelwise  
Sandy Minton  
Anthony Conyers  
Margaret Schultze  
Pat Rengnerth

Via Conference Call: Marianne McGhee, Karin Clark, and Eric Beecroft

**Minutes**

*ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Luca) and seconded (Ms. Simon-Owens) moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**Pod cast Update**

Members and guests heard a sample pod cast on Domestic Violence. VDSS is creating their pod cast for the VDSS website. This is being optimized through the use of news releases.

**Pod cast Themes**

November	-Prison Reentry Program
December	-Poverty and the Elderly
January	-A Resolution- Steps and Services to Self-Sufficiency
February	-Social Worker Perspectives on Poverty
March	-EITC
April	-EITC
May	-Foster Care Awareness Month
June	-School's Out, Now What?
July	-Open



August -Child Support Awareness Month  
September -Staying Warm, Staying Cool: Coping with the elements and resources  
for for help.

### **EITC Outreach**

Authorize DSS activities as appropriate to maximize success of VACAP's and EITC Outreach Campaign.

### **Recommendations for Board**

- Board members to survey VACAP EITC Website (<http://www.vaeitc.org>)
- Schedule presentation at December Board meeting
- Announce winners of VACAP EITC grants to all local DSS offices
- Prepare pod casts highlighting EITC program
- Offer and DSS Broadcast and tool kit on EITC to all local offices
- Ask VACAP to request all CAP directors to meet with local DSS directors to coordinate EITC Outreach activities
- Request local directors to train all customer staff to provide EITC information verbally and in written format to all DSS customers beginning in January 2008
- Participate in any EITC activities planned by the Governor

Peggy Friedenbergs is a good EITC resource at the VDSS office.

### **Committee Sharing**

Ms. Linden advised adoption would be a compelling topic to use in July. She asked if the heart gallery could coincide with one of the topics. Affordable Housing is a subject that should be addressed.

Commissioner Conyers mentioned that during the Roundtable the previous evening, substance abuse, kinship care and children coming into foster care as a result of substance abuse, is an issue that falls under the poverty issue.

Ms. Simon-Owens noted that transportation is a challenge for people in poverty. Rural areas do not have mass transportation.

It was suggested that a "resource list" could be provided at the end of each pod cast.

Ms. Brisendine stated that few people understand what the Poverty Index is. Perhaps someone could come to a meeting and talk about the reality of the poverty index versus a living wage versus the actual cost to live. Ms. McGhee felt it would be beneficial to have someone speak about this rather than read for a better understanding and history of it.

Mr. Beecroft advised that volunteers can be mobilized through pod casts.



Ms. Simon-Owens stated the Board had already approved the Poverty Committee to pass off developing pod cast themes and report back to the Board. Ms. Luca agreed.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. It's possible we can do something in conjunction with Family and Children's Trust Fund.

**Non Profit Consideration**

Ms. Brisendine advised these meetings have had a history of being cancelled; however, they did meet two weeks ago. They don't have anyone currently available to discuss the meeting details; however Ms. Brisendine will send out a memo requesting any recommendations from the group.

Ms. Linden felt the 1-800 number being used in the pod cast should related back to a word that people would remember.

Thanks were given to Ms. McGhee and her team for all their work on this issue.

With no further business to discuss, the committee meeting adjourned at noon.